Equal Rights

VOL. XIII, No. 41
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 27, 1926

Florence Bayard Hilles

Chairman of the Delaware Branch of the Woman's Party and member of the National Council, who spoke before meetings of the Farm Council held recently in Chestertown and Easton, Maryland. Mrs. Hilles is one of the most popular speakers in the Woman's Party.

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Feminist Notes

Greek Women Seek Independence

ECONOMIC independence is bringing to Greek women a new freedom. Women are entering into wage-earning occupations in increasing numbers, as well as into the professions. They defy old prejudices by going into business. They work in street cars, and even in difficult labor such as breaking rock for the new road to the Marathon Dam. Women stenographers are increasing in numbers.

Japanese Women Workers

ACCORDING to Japanese Home Office Social Bureau reports, there are about 11,000,000 women wage-earners and professional women in Japan, besides 60,000,000 farming assistants.

Women physicians, mid-wives, nurses and the like number 98,000 throughout Japan. Teachers of higher girls' schools and elementary schools, are estimated at 78,000. Government office assistants number 4500. Those working in commercial lines total 6,007,000 including 9300 saleswomen and typists, and 5,014,000 maid-servants, waitresses and actresses. Employees in factories, mining offices, etc., number 11,000. Municipal returns put film actresses living in Tokyo at 620.

Feminism in Chile

IN Chile the Feminist cause is making progress. A bill which has been passed by the Senate grants the municipal franchise to certain classes of women over 25 years old, namely, unmarried women not subject to the *patria potestas*, and married women who hold their property separately from their husbands. Roxane, the best known woman journalist in Chile, comments wittily on this carefulness to keep political power from all women exposed to masculine influence.

A formal victory was obtained by the Feminists in Article 23 of the Chilean law on labor contracts, passed on September 8, 1924, which establishes that for equal work men and women shall receive equal wages. Article 18 of the same law enacts that when a judicial sentence declares a man to be alcoholic, up to 50 per cent. of his wages may be paid to his wife. Roxane declares, however, that this legislation is as yet ineffective. In a recent tour through the provinces of Chile, she found that in almost all workshops and factories women still receive starvation pay, sometimes no more than 80 centavos, or about 5d. a day.

In the middle class the increasing employment of women clerks by private firms and by public offices is noticeable.

99-Year-Old Teacher Honored

FOR the first time in its history, the University of the State of New York conferred upon a woman an honorary degree when, on October 27, Dr. Frank P. Graves draped around the shoulders of Emily Howland, 99-year-old teacher of Central New York, a purple and gold hood and placed in her hand the diploma of a doctor of letters. Miss Howland made a 198-mile trip from her home in Sherwood, Cayuga County, New York, to receive the honorary degree. She taught school before the Civil War, and is today running two farms and a school and is director of a bank. She is a Quaker, and at the age of 30 she began to teach negroes in Washington. In 1863 she took charge of a camp of freed slaves. There she taught 1,000 negroes, and nursed the camp through an epidemic of smallpox.

In 1868 she started a school in Westmoreland County, Virginia, and she managed the school's finances from 1882 until last year, when it became a public institution. She still supports it.

Miss Howland was a pioneer in the woman suffrage movement. She is said to have been the first woman ever to be a director of a bank. She became director of the National Bank of Auburn, New York, thirty-one years ago.

The last time Miss Howland visited her State Capital was in 1914, when she went to urge the passage of a woman suffrage bill.

Swiss Women's Work

AN exhibition of Swiss women's work is proposed for the autumn of 1928, and a meeting of its executive committee has been held at Berne. The fundamental aims of the exhibition are to show woman's capabilities in the working world and the economic importance of these capabilities, and to encourage the recognition of her services. Her efforts in the spheres of education, apprenticeship, public welfare, and instruction will also be demonstrated. The exhibition will also make a point of instructing women and youth generally how to make their work, whether in the home or professionally, easier.

Madame Curie Honored

POLAND has issued a postage stamp bearing the likeness of Mme. Curie, discoverer of radium. Mme. Curie is a citizen of France, but she was born in Poland. It is rare for a woman to be honored with a postage stamp, and rare for any person to be so honored by a country of which he is not a citizen.

Skeptical of "Protection"

OPPORTUNITY, official organ of the Federation of Women Civil Servants (England) again points out the skepticism with which women are learning to view the efforts of men to "protect" women from arduous occupations. The British Post Office has refused to allow women to be appointed as dispensers of mail on the ground that the work is "physically exacting." *Opportunity* points out that the department has not observed that many of the ill-paid jobs in which women are welcomed are also severe and "physically exacting."

"Women and Children" Again

THE Department of Industries and Labor of the Government of India has recently published its annual report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, according to the *International Labor Review*. The act prescribes that no woman or child shall be employed in a factory for more than six hours in any one day, nor may they begin work before 5.30 A. M. or continue after 7 P. M. The employment of women and children known to have already been employed on the same day in any other factory was forbidden by the act as in force during 1924, but a 1926 amendment has removed the prohibition with regard to women.

What a Woman Did in Education

AS the result of the appointment of Lenna Lowe Yost as the one woman among the seven members of the West Virginia State Board of Education, the West Virginia State University, and one college gives professional standing and rank to women faculty members, with equal salaries for equal work and attainments, according to the *Legislative Counsellor*, official organ of the Women's Legislative Council of the State of Washington.

Woman Surgeon Receives Appointment

DR. BRIAN GARFIELD has been appointed assistant consulting surgeon at the Bichat, one of the principal hospitals of Paris. Dr. Garfield specializes on appendicitis and cancer, and most of her patients are women and children.

More Women Aviators

TWO more English women have obtained aviators' certificates at the Stage Line Air Line Club. They are Lady Bailey, wife of Sir Abe Bailey, South African millionaire, and Norah O'Brien.

Farm Council Hold Meetings

ON Tuesday, November 9, meetings of women farmers were held in Chestertown and Easton, Maryland, under the auspices of the Farm Council of the National Woman's Party. Mrs. Elizabeth W. Dixon, National Chairman of the Farm Council, organized the meetings, and secured the co-operation of other groups, including the Grange, the Farm Bureau, and the Federated Farm Women of America.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss farm problems, rural betterment, co-operative undertakings among farmers, and other projects for the advancement of the interests of women farmers and their families.

Mrs. Aida Mayo, the charming chairman of the Federated Farm Women of America and one of the latest recruits in the ranks of the Woman's Party, spoke on "Marketing by Parcel Post." She has inaugurated a system whereby she obtains customers for farm women. These customers are the women consumers, and the sending of the farm product by parcel post from farm women direct to the consumers eliminates the middleman, thus securing a higher price for the farmer, and a lower cost to the consumer. Mrs. Mayo's plan was received with great enthusiasm and she was surrounded immediately after each meeting by women farmers in need of customers. Men farmers also sought the efficient services of Mrs. Mayo, but each successful male petitioner was required to produce a wife or mother, since Mrs. Mayo's object is to aid the women of the farms. Mrs. Mayo is the wife of Commander Chester Mayo of the United States Navy, and sister of Douglas MacLean of movie fame.

Miss Amy Juengling of Buffalo, New York, and Dr. F. B. Bomberger of the Agricultural College of the University of Maryland, spoke on co-operation among farmers in Denmark. Both Miss Juengling and Dr. Bomberger recently studied the farming situation in Denmark—Miss Juengling's work in this respect being for the benefit of the Farm Council of the National Woman's Party.

It was said that although Denmark is only about 40 per cent. larger in area than the State of Maryland, there were in existence in that country in 1925, 7,794 co-operative associations. The figures on co-operative membership in these organizations and those on the number of persons engaged in farming in Denmark indicate that on the average the Danish farmer belongs to approximately four and one-half associations. Because every farmer in Denmark co-operates with his fellow-farmer, it has been possible to work out a sound system of co-operation in every phase of rural life, and the economic situation of the farmers has been correspondingly improved. According to Miss Juengling, women are active in all the farming operations in Denmark and are as good "joiners" as the men of the farms.

The Farmers' National Council was represented at the meetings by Mr. Benjamin C. Marsh, its managing director. According to Mr. Marsh, "close to a million too many farmers are trying to make a living by farming," and the withdrawal of this million of farmers from competitive commercial production would improve the farming industry and insure the farmers a good market.

Mr. Marsh expressed the hope that women would take hold of the tangled web of the American farm plant and find effective means of bringing about reforms in farm life.

"Woman's Relation to the Farm" was the subject of an address by Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles of Delaware. The census listing of housewives on the farm as persons having no occupations was condemned by Mrs. Hilles. "The women on the farm should insist upon the recognition of their occupation of homemakers," said Mrs. Hilles. "If farm women do not place a value on their services, who will?" she asked. Reference was also made by Mrs. Hilles to the report by Dr. Louise Stanley of the United States Department of Agriculture, showing the actual monetary worth of the services performed by a housewife on the average farm.

Besides Mrs. Elizabeth W. Dixon, who told of her youthful experiences as a "dirt" farmer, other speakers included Mrs. Harold E. Baker, turkey raiser; Mrs. Evelyn S. Harris, author of "The Farmer and His Wife," and owner of one of the largest pear orchards on the Eastern Shore, and Mrs. Harry T. Williams, who outlined the purposes of the Grange and its record of services in behalf of the American farmer and the rural people.

Despite a heavy downpour of rain, the courthouses where the meetings were held were full, thus evidencing the interest of Maryland farmers in the gatherings. The visiting speakers were entertained at farm houses in the community and were shown some of the model farms.

Tne Economic Status of Women

JUST as the National Industrial Conference Board got out its strangely incongrous and illogical argument that women are paid less than men in clerical positions because they "generally seek employment only as a temporary expedient to fill in the time between school and matrimony," and because their job is "only a side line" if they continue it after marriage, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs announces that it will make a national survey to determine the exact economic status of women.

The survey will be made by the Federation's personnel research committee, headed by Margaret Elliott of the faculty of the University of Michigan.

The Bureau of Business Administration of the University of Michigan will furnish machinery for the conduct of the survey. The questionnaire which will be used in collecting data has been prepared by Dr. Grace Manson, who is connected with the bureau.

The survey will disclose how many occupations are now open to women; what is the minimum, the maximum and the average wage in each field; how women are trained for their work, and what are necessary qualifications for each vocation.

Question will also be directed to how women get their jobs; whether it is through the intervention of friends, throuh agencies, or through a more or less hit or miss canvass. Information obtainable on this score is expected to shed much light upon the efficacy of the present placement agencies.

Out of the survey should develop not only definite data along the lines which have been suggested, but also some interesting offshoots. It is anticipated that the survey will reveal interesting geographical differences in women's work, and also in the rates of compensation for similar work from different sections. It will also, without question, disclose which vocations are really "young women's jobs" and which can be pursued with equal success by middle aged women.

An attempt will also be made to discover whether women are following their present occupations through inclination or necessity.

A complete compilation will probably be available for the national convention of the federation in Oakland, California, next June.

The survey will be conducted by numbers, and no woman will be required to give her name or disclose her itentity in any way.

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OFFICIAL ORGAN
of the
National Woman's Party
Capitol Hill
Washington, D. C.

Published weekly
at 19 West Chase Street
Baltimore, Md.

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Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice, Baltimore, Md., under Act March 3, 1870.

Subscription, $2.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $2.50

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 11.
House Joint Resolution Number 81.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 8, 1925, by Senator Charles E. Curtis.
Introduced in the House of Representatives, December 16, 1925, by Representative D. R. Anthony.

Is Parenthood Sinful?

WHILE school boards in various quarters of the planet are engaged in passing or upholding regulations that call for the resignation of married women teachers who commit the sin of parenthood, the immortal George Bernard Shaw, winner of the Nobel prize for literature, comes forward with a precisely opposite proposition.

It appears that the Twickenham Education Committee (England) recently dismissed the head mistress of the Girls' Secondary School on the ground that her responsibilities as the mother of a seven-month-old baby were incompatible with her school duties. The head mistress, Dr. Isabel Turnadge, is a doctor of philosophy and a bachelor of science, and has been married three years.

Mr. Shaw is quoted by the Westminster *Gazette* as commenting: "Twickenham is near the river, and the sooner the Twickenham people put their education committee in the river the better. It would be far more sensible to refuse to allow any woman to become a teacher unless she had a baby and looked after it properly."

Precisely why school boards should be so universally and so implacably opposed to married women teachers having children is hard to understand. Any sensible man or woman, in this day and generation, who is not obsessed with sentimental prejudice, must realize that the actual physical presence of the mother continually at the side of the bassinette is not necessary to infant welfare. The psychiatrists tell us of the multifareous ill results of too much mothering of children. Competent obstetricians advise four-hour feedings, with the institution of at least one bottle in the course of the day, thus making an eight-hour working day feasible even for the nursing mother. Capable trained nurses abound who are always admittedly desirable if the infant falls ill in the mother's hands. Yet boards of education—save the mark!—continue to prate as if we still lived in the middle ages. Statistics prove beyond peradventure that the infant mortality rate is lowest in precisely those groups that can afford to have nurses. Facts are, however, of no account in the argument, for hoary-headed school commissioners who have never minded a baby in their lives prefer sentimentality to common sense and justice when it comes to a discussion of motherhood. Moreover their behavior indicates that they are themselves deeply involved in unwholesome sex complexes. The idea of pregnancy is shameful to them, and the mere thought of a prospective mother in the classroom torments their tender sensibilities. That their own prurience, rather than the efficiency of the teacher-mother is at the root of the difficulty, is always shown in the manner in which they rationalize their conduct. They do not venture to base their rule of dismissal on the classroom work actually performed by the teacher, but instead they maintain, with a broad general gesture, that the "responsibilities of motherhood are incompatible with the duties of a teacher." Arrant nonsense, as they perfectly well know themselves, but a polite method of stating their horror at the—to them—shameful processes of normal reproduction. Would that the river, to which Mr. Shaw refers, might wash the minds of such school commissioners clean of the taint of some of their extra-curricular education.

Cases such as that of Dr. Turnadge indicate the universal need of the recognition of Equal Rights as a guiding principle in law making and administration. The United States is inflicted with school commissioners who are, in many instances, quite as evil-minded and unjust as the Twickenham Education Committee. It is precisely against the machinations of gentry of this type that the Equal Rights Amendment would operate successfully.

Another Record Maker

A SPECIAL telegram to the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* from Kansas City, Missouri, indicates that the "weaker sex" is not always so fragile as tradition would have it. The wire reads:

"Grandma Emma McMahon, born back in 1821, nevertheless shares the views of modern Feminists that all women should be self-supporting.

"Although she was 105 November 25, Mrs. McMahon is earning her living as a garment finisher. She contends she is the oldest self-supporting woman in the world. She long has been famous in garment-finishing circles here for her speed with the needle. Even now, at the Good Will Industries, an institution which rehabilitates clothing for the needy, grandma's fingers set a pace that is not easy for some of the younger workers to follow."

In spite of the alleged physical superiority of men we can find no record of a man of Mrs. McMahon's age who is self-supporting.

The Status of Women in the Service of the Federal Government in 1925

THE Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor recently published the results of an investigation of the status of women in the Government service in 1925.* In view of the passage in 1923 of an act providing for the classification of civilian positions, and for "equal compensation for equal work irrespective of sex" in the Government service, the report of the investigation is of particular interest to Feminists.

In an introduction to the report, Miss Bertha M. Nienburg, who made the investigation, states:

"The never-ceasing and increasingly vigorous demand of our girls, as they pass from schools and colleges into the main stream of life, to know what are the wage-earning currents of which they may become a vital part calls for a periodic survey of the service rendered by women for their largest single employer, the United States Government. Such a survey shows that there is a considerable range of opportunity for women, as well as for men, in the Government service. Whether in the administrative, in the scientific, in the professional, in the social science, in the artistic, in the clerical, in the manufacturing, in the mechanical, or in the cleaning service, all positions are open, potentially if not actually, to women. The United States Civil Service Commission ruled on November 5, 1919, that all examinations were open to women and men alike. However, although the commission offers men and women equal opportunities in examinations, it cannot fill a vacancy with a woman, even though she may rate highest in examination, when the officials requesting the appointment specify that the appointee be a man. The discretionary power in this matter rests entirely in the officials of the department or establishment in which the vacancy occurs.

"THE extent to which women have availed themselves of the advantage of equality in examinations, the chances they have had to take positions after examinations were passed, the opportunities for advancement once the positions were secured—in short, the status of women actually employed in the Government service—will tell the young women in search of opportunities for profitable employment of the practical possibilities of advancement for women in the Government service today."

"The opportunities for advancement in the Government service are best reflected in the records of women who have been in the service for some time. With the resources available, it was not possible to include in this study all women so employed. Consequently, the confines of the review were placed where those who had attained positions of responsibility or positions requiring special education and training would be included. The classification Act of 1923 fixed the minimum salary for positions requiring 'professional, scientific, or technical training equivalent to that represented by graduation from a college or university of recognized standing' at $1,860 per annum. All persons in administrative positions receive more than this sum. It was decided, therefore, to review in this study only records of women who were receiving salaries of $1,860 and over. Positions paying salaries below $1,860 are touched upon only in connection with beginning salaries. Thus all women in the professional and scientific service, all women in the administrative service, and such women in the subprofessional and clerical services as were earning $1,860 and over were included. * * *"

A SUMMARY of the report is as follows:

"Almost one-half of the employees in the departmental service of the seven independent establishments and six departments whose records were reviewed in their entirety were women. A little more than one-third of all employes in these services received salaries of $1,860 and over per annum; 21 per cent. of those receiving such salaries were women; 79 per cent. were men.

"Stated in terms of the total number of men and women reported, nearly one-sixth of the women and approximately one-half of the men employed in these establishments received $1,860 or more a year.

"Of the 2,198 women earning $1,860 and over in these Government establishments (including part of the Treasury Department), almost two-thirds were in clerical, typing, or stenographic positions. Eight per cent. were engaged in accounting and auditing. The remaining fourth were scattered in administrative, professional, scientific, and subprofessional positions, in no one branch of which was there as large a proportion as 5 per cent.

"The beginning salary of clerks and typists usually is $1,140; the beginning salary of stenographers, $1,320. The highest salary paid to men or women in these positions was $2,700. Only one woman stenographer and eight women clerks of the thousands employed in these positions in establishments included in the study received the highest salary.

"The beginning salary for all occupations classified in the scientific or professional service is $1,860. The highest salary received by a woman in this service (exclusive of the heads and assistant heads of scientific and professional bureaus) was $5,200; the highest received by a man was $6,000.

"Measured by the actual numbers who get beyond the $1,860 base line, stenographic and clerical positions offer opportunity for advancement in the departmental service to the larger number of women. Measured by the proportion who reach the base line and salary range beyond, the greater opportunities for women lie in professional and scientific fields.

"The highest salary received by a woman among those included in this study was $6,500, the amount paid to one woman—the civil service commissioner. Only 10 of the thousands of women included received as much as $5,200, eight of these being in administrative work, one in cooperative extension work, and one in fact collection service. Only 35 women received $3,600 and more.

"In the positions paying $1,860 and over in which both women and men were employed the proportions of women were always greater in the lower salary groups and smaller in the higher salary groups than the proportions of men.

"In all the positions paying salaries of $1,860 and over in which women and men were employed, 45 per cent. of the women employees, as compared with approximately 15 per cent. of the men in like positions, received just $1,860 a year. Almost 40 per cent. of the women employees and 24 per cent. of the men employees received between $1,860 and $2,400. Fifteen per cent. of the women and 61.5 per cent. of the men were paid $2,400 or more per year.

"In clerical occupations almost 53 per cent of the women with salaries of $1,860 and over, as compared with 31 per cent. of the men, received just $1,860.

"AMONG law and claim examiners about 45 per cent. of the women and only about one-fourth of the men received just $1,860.

"In scientific positions, in the fact collection and analysis group, and in the accounting and auditing service, a little more than one-fourth of the women employees earning $1,860 and over in each group received just $1,860, while less than 10 per cent. of the men in each gorup were paid as little as this amount.

"The readjustments of salary rates resulting from reclassification of positions in the departmental service increased the salaries of men receiving $1,860 and over

* United States Department of Labor, Bulletin of the Women's Bureau, No. 53.

to a greater extent than the salaries of women receiving such amounts.

"Of all the women and all the men in like positions who received $1,860 and over, 21 per cent. of the women and 39 per cent. of the men received increases of 5 per cent. or more in their salary rates as a result of the reclassification of positions in the departmental service.

"Among clerks receiving salaries of $1,860 and over, 22 per cent. of the men as compared with 12 per cent. of the women, and among stenographers and typists 22½ per cent of the men as compared with 14 per cent. of the women, received increases of 5 per cent. or more.

"In the legal service 47 per cent. of the men received 5 per cent. increases or more, while only 27 per cent. of the women had such adjustment.

"In scientific research and investigation 52 per cent. of the men, as compared with 36 per cent. of the women, gained a 5 per cent. or greater addition in salary."

A Girl from China

Reviewed by Sue S. White

NOTHING short of amazing is the true story of the life of Soumay Tcheng, as told in her own words, by her friend Miss B. Van Vorst in "A Girl from China," published by Frederick A. Stokes Company. Women of our western world think they have attained freedom as individuals in their way of thinking if not otherwise, but here is a girl from China who all but shames the most emancipated of her occidental sisters in the way she has been true to herself. One who has been in the habit of thinking of China as *China* will find herself sitting back in her chair after reading this book and wondering "how did it happen?" Here is complete emancipation in both aspiration and achievement. That it was not the work of any missionaries is quite plain, although one who is familiar with the stories of missionaries can but be reminded of that oldest of all their tales: *"Let there be light, and there was light,"* —just like that. The spontaneous, untraceable, inexplicable miracle of rebellious genius happened in the soul of a little high-born Chinese girl, and there it was.

SHE does not try to explain it herself. She simply tells her story. Of her early years she says: "I did not have patience enough to sit quietly, like my little cousins and be taught how to embroider. I liked to run around the gardens and climb trees with the boys. * * * * * One day when I was busy with one of my boy cousins building a mud house, my uncle discovered me. * * * His anger made me determined that I would not yield to him. * * * * * My mother did not scold me. I remember the tenderness in her eyes as she looked at me. She was displeased with me for my disobedience, but she quite understood my reasons."

Again she asserted her independence by protesting against her grandmother's orders that one of the slaves be beaten. She refused, at five years of age, to have her feet bound. Again her mother understood. In fact, in this matter her mother had planted the seed, for she had held out "her little foot, broken like the wing of a wounded bird," telling how "she regretted such a false ideal. * * * She longed that my future might be more free than her past had been. 'Soumay,' she said to me, 'you must strike out for yourself. Develop your intelligence first, and then perhaps you may be able to help others and be of use to them.'"

She mentions here and there, through the book, some of the restrictions thrown around Chinese women. There were quarters in the homes or palaces of the old families to which women were not admitted except on occasions of celebrations. She says of her mother's generation, "in those days, there was not much chance for girls to amount to anything." Again, in traveling: "Women of the class to which my mother belonged could not go through the streets of a Chinese city in full view of the public." She speaks of the "hostility of the Chinese Government toward any plan which encourages woman to live outside of the natural bonds of wifehood and motherhood." The marriage laws of China, at the time of which she writes, admitted the existence of several wives in the life of every man. She tells of unhappiness in her family because of this fact, tells of it with delicacy, with loyalty and love and understanding for both her father and her mother. She prevents a tragedy by persuading her mother to live for her children, making a solemn vow: "The day will come when you shall be proud of me. I promise you." Later when she was involved up to her eye-brows in the Chinese revolution she confided in her mother, and this was the response: "You are right. You must help the Chinese women. They have been treated by their families, and by their husbands, as though they were playthings. Not only have they been prevented from educating themselves, but it has been supposed that they were incapable of learning anything. Show what one Chinese woman is able to do. You will be helping your sisters for all future time. Your work is good. Your decision is wise."

SO perhaps Soumay Tcheng's feminism is not altogether inexplicable, after all. It would seem that the spirit was in her mother also, but it was a spirit that was beaten back constantly. We must remember that in her mother's day there had not been "much chance for girls to amount to anything," and that other things than feet can be "broken like the wing of a wounded bird."

After the family joined her father in Peking she was with him a great deal: "As my girl's clothes attracted attention when I went about in an open ricksha, it was decided I should have my hair cut short and thrown back from my forehead, and that I should be dressed in a long silk coat, trousers such as little boys of my age wore. * * * * * I was eleven years old at this time. Disguised in this way, with a little round cap on the top of my head, I could roll about to my heart's content in the streets of Peking without exciting any criticism. * * * * One evening my father took me to dine with him in a fashionable restaurant. Ladies in China are never seen in such places. * * * * * When we got home I told my mother all about our evening, and she was rather scandalized."

FINALLY Soumay brought about a reconciliation between her mother and father, but her proud old grandmother appeared on the scene, and "all that I had tried to build up crumbled to naught."

Her grandmother wanted to marry Soumay off to the proper sort of young man and at fourteen she became engaged. She did not at first resist her grandmother's matchmaking for, she says, "I imagined while hunting a husband for me, she would leave everyone in the household more in peace." At last, her engagement was celebrated. She had never seen the young man, and according to the Chinese custom neither he nor she were to be present at the celebration of the engagement. But she had a normal amount of curiosity and placed herself where she could see what was going on. She saw grandmother "enthroned in a large armchair, raised on a small platform, around which a crowd of friends had assembled. One by one they greeted her, they "kowtowed." * * * She was radiant at being treated and adulated as though she were an empress * * * That night, as I fell asleep, I wondered who had been the real heroine of the occasion? Grandmother or I?"

So the fourteen-year-old Soumay became engaged to a very conventional, old-fashioned young man who considered her imitation of European costoms greatly misplaced, and who let it be known he would not think of tolerating in his house

such a modern instrument of progress as a telephone. Soumay thought she might get along without the telephone, but, she says: "To cap the climax, I was told that my future father-in-law did not admit the idea that I should go on with my studies." He thought she knew too much already, and spent most of her time out of her parents' house, and a woman of his rank in society should not run after learning. Soumay made up her mind that never would she marry the young man, and cleverly contrived to break off the engagement. She considered it an "unbearable union," and was determined, "no matter what the consequences might be," not to be forced into a marriage with a young man who had no personal merits whatever, and "who intended that my life should end before it had even begun." To the scandal of everybody, as "ever since China has had a history there had never been a case known of a broken engagement," she accomplished the breach and became free again.

About this time she became interested in the revolution. She became more and more deeply involved, until she was carrying bombs and dynamite, and even planning to throw a bomb. She was prevented from making this sacrifice of her life, but was under such surveillance that it was necessary for her to leave the country. Before she left, however, she went back to her old home in Canton and had another fling at the status of women. "The women, I decided, were no longer to live in the pavilion where they had formerly been secluded; they were to move into the large house which was more comfortable. * * * I persuaded several of my cousins to abandon the quarters where their mothers had lived, and to share with me my new kingdom. My old uncle looked upon this invasion with no little astonishment, but he resigned himself without really opposing me."

THEN it was France, right on the eve of the World War, when others thought it wise to leave Paris, But no: "The moment was a painful one, but I had begun to understand the situation better. I determined that, whatever might happen, I would remain in Paris. * * * This war and the present events I considered not only important, but a turning point in the history of the world. I must see the result." Besides, she wanted to study. By June, 1916, she was able to pass her first examination in law, with trembling, but not much fear: "Above all, I was sustained and inspired by the longing to show the women of my country what they could do if they made the effort I had." Always she has seemed to have some thought of women.

She returned to China and for a year, "traveled through the provinces urging parents to encourage their daughters and to make it possible for them to continue their studies in the universities of Western science. In December, 1920, I was able to set sail again. I gathered about me a flock of 20 girls and brought this adopted family with me to France. Twice as many more young Chinese women students had preceded us."

Of American women she says: "We look to you as our example. Your encouragement will shine like a light to show us the way. We want to become like you, not only free women, but citizens of the world—of the New World."

In July, 1925, she passed her examinations at the Sorbonne and received her degree of Doctor of Law. Her biographer in the foreword says: "For the last ten years Soumay Tcheng has been the leading spirit among the Chinese students in Paris. Her home in the Latin Quarter has been a center frequented by the humblest workmen and women and by the most eminent Chinese statsmen, scholars, and diplomats as they have visited Paris. * * * * * The State Department has offered her a position on her return to Peking in November. She hopes to go into Parliament, to found a women's Party, a women's bank, etc."

Throughout the book there is shown a passionate love for her country, but none the less passionate is the feeling for the women of her country and zeal for their actual and spiritual emancipation. And the hope and beauty of it all is that she is young,—hardly more than thirty as I count the years.

French Home Workers

Reprinted from the New York Times of November 4, 1926.

FRANCE, for the past ten years, has had practical experience of a legal minimum wage for women home workers, the principle of which was established by the law of July, 1925, writes Professor Roger Picard of Lille University in a recent issue of the *International Labor Review.*

The act, which is now incorporated in the Labor Code, applies exclusively to women workers carrying out at home work connected with the clothing industry; section 33 enumerates several examples, such as embroidery, feathers and artificial flowers. In exceptional cases men carrying out at home the same work as women can also benefit by the act; if their wages are below the minimum prescribed for women they have a right to claim its application to themselves. But they cannot take advantage of the other provisions of the act.

It is not the act itself which determines the minimum wage applicable to women home workers. It merely provides that these workers shall receive for their work such price as shall enable them to earn in ten hours a wage equal to the minimum to be laid down in each department or district by the labor councils, or by wage committees.

The labor councils, which had existed in law, but not in fact since the act of 1908 which created them, were not given any new life by the act of 1915. Wage committees have been created, composed of an equal number of employers and workers and presided over by the local justice of the peace. Their function is the determination of the daily wage commonly paid in the trade or district to women workers for the same or similar work to that done by home workers, or, failing this, the work of an ordinary daily worker. It is this wage which becomes the legal minimum for women home workers.

Committees of industrial experts constituted similarly to the wage committees have to determine the time necessary for execution of the various jobs of the trade and to fix the scale of prices applicable to them, having regard to the minimum wage laid down by the wage committee. An application of these prices to the women home workers should enable them to earn in a normal working day the recognized minimum wage prescribed by the wage committee.

The employers are then obliged to adopt these prices; they must post up the table of rates in the room where they receive the workers. They must provide counterfoil tickets or books indicating the nature and quality of the work, together with the prices and various other information. They must keep a register, giving the names and addresses of all their women workers. It is to be noted that they are not obliged to register men home workers nor provide them with tickets.

In the event of non-observance of these various regulations, the labor inspectors prosecute the offenders and various penalties are imposed. In cases where the employer has paid wages below the prescribed minimum the worker can obtain the balance and damages by law.

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Press Comment

Denying a Biological Fact

New York World, November 10, 1926.

THE Woman's Party representatives who so vehemently oppose the Forty-eight-Hour Bill for women at the hearings of the Industrial Survey Commission must be given credit for consistency. They are arguing for absolute industrial equality between the sexes. This would imply more than defeating the Forty-eight-Hour Bill—it would imply repeal of the present Fifty-four-Hour Bill; and very logically the Woman's Party demands this. But the argument also requires a good deal more. Pursued to its full conclusion, it would necessitate repeal of all our special legislation against night work for women; against placing them in occupations physically dangerous; of our laws requiring special seats, rest rooms and sanitary arrangements for women; and of our Mothers' Pension Law. Expressed in these extreme terms, the fallacy of the Woman's Party principle becomes clear.

New York State is already committed, like every other civilized community from New Zealand to Finland, to the contrary principle that women workers are not to be left upon a plane of absolute equality with men, but lifted to a protected plane. This principle does not grow out of mere chivalry, but from exigent considerations of social welfare. Women in industry have a double role to play; they are not merely useful workers, but are actually or potentially mothers of the rising generation. When the Woman's Party can repeal this fundamental biological fact, with its innumerable implications, they will for the first time have a basis for the repeal of the laws which they assail.

News from the Field

Active Campaign Planned in Maine

THE Maine Branch of the National Woman's Party held a drawing-room meeting at the home of the State chairman, Mrs. Robert Treat Whitehouse of Portland, Wednesday, November 10, at 3.30, at which fifty of the leading women of Portland were present.

Mrs. Whitehouse presided, and in introducing the speakers explained the history, purpose and nature of the Woman's Party.

Miss Rebecca Hourwich, National Organizer of the National Woman's Party, now a resident of Robinhood, Maine, was the first speaker. The Portland *Press-Herald* quoted Miss Hourwich's concluding remarks in their heading of the meeting's report: "I think it the saddest and most pathetic commentary on the status of women, that a group of intelligent women meet, in this day and age, to be told that women need Equal Rights."

Miss Gail Laughlin, newly elected member of the Legislature from Portland, was warmly greeted by her constituents when she followed as speaker. Miss Laughlin made one of her usual brilliant and witty talks, showing that in her the women of Maine are assured of a Feminist representative.

Miss Marguerite Brooks of Augusta, a Founder and Third Congressional District Chairman of the Maine Branch, opened the discussion of the meeting by voicing her own convictions as a highly paid industrial executive employing many women, as to the injustice of protective legislation when applied to women only.

Immediately after the meeting the speakers broadcasted the program from the Congress Square Hotel Radio Station in Portland.

During her stay in Portland Miss Hourwich had personal interviews on the Equal Rights Amendment, and the Maine Equal Rights situation with, among others, Miss Helen Hovenner, national publicity chairman of the National Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Mrs. Mary Thompson, president of the Y. W. C. A. in Maine; Col. Harry Bigelow, editor of the Portland *Press-Herald;* Mrs. Guy Gannett, Republican committeewoman from Maine, and Robert Hale, candidate for speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, and nephew of United States Senator Fred Hale.

The Bath and Portland papers gave extensive publicity to what they termed "the issue of Equal Rights."

Opera Singer Stars in Political Campaign

ART and politics, according to popular belief, have little in common, but Nanette Guilford, youngest star of the Metropolitan Opera Company, demonstrates a lively interest in public affairs, although she is not yet old enough to vote. Miss Guilford will be twenty-one next August, but in the meantime she has devoted herself to politics with the energy of a seasoned campaigner. She worked hard for the re-election of Governor "Al" Smith, and appeared frequently at Democratic rallies.

"I know that a singer isn't expected to be interested in public affairs," says Miss Guilford, "and in the past there may have been some reason for this. Most of our musicians were imported in those days from Europe, and our life and politics were quite foreign to them. And being aliens, they could not vote. Things are different now. There is a much larger proportion of native Americans not only in opera, but in music generally, and they take an intelligent interest in everything that concerns America."

It is the duty of every woman to vote, Miss Guilford believes, and there are many problems in which the voice of women is more important than that of men. Among these she designates child labor laws, welfare legislation, and laws regulating the hours of women's work.

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